

The Shelby County Health Department and its partners have a number of initiatives, listed below, that address prematurity, which is a leading cause of infant mortality.

- **Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR)**- Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) is a community-based and action-oriented process used to improve service systems and resources for women, infants, and families. This evidence-based method examines fetal and infant deaths, determines preventability, and engages communities to take action.
- **TennCare Presumptive and Prenatal – Presumptive Eligibility (PE)** is a **TennCare** Medicaid category of coverage for income-eligible **pregnant** women. It encourages early entry into **prenatal** care for improved health outcome for both the mother and the baby. An income-eligible **pregnant** woman can begin receiving covered services on the day that she is approved for PE. Appropriate prenatal care throughout pregnancy can prevent conditions that lead to premature labor and birth.
- **Family Planning**- provides information concerning reproductive health, birth spacing, and preconception health services- including FDA-approved birth control methods. The ability to space births through the use of birth control leads to healthier planned pregnancies, resulting in healthier newborns and mothers.
- **Breastfeeding Support**- counseling and assistance to new mothers to encourage breastfeeding, which is proven to have many health benefits for both the infant and the nursing mother.
- **Safe Sleep Education**- the ABCs of Safe Sleep campaign promotes safe infant sleep environments and techniques to the entire community. It is an important intervention because up to one quarter of infant deaths are due to preventable sleep-related causes.
- **Safety Equipment and Resources for Parents**- the Health Department provides Pack n Play cribs at no cost to families that self-identify their need for a safe sleep environment for their babies. The Infant Car Seat program provides car seats at no cost for families in need of a car seat.
- **Women, Infants and Children (WIC)**- assists families with supplemental nutritious foods, education provided on breastfeeding support (moms and dads)....program designed to safeguard health of women, infants, and children up to age 5 that are at highest nutritional risks. Pregnant women are eligible to participate. Inadequate nutrition during pregnancy is linked to low birth weight and preterm birth.
- **Newborn Outreach Screening- Newborn screening** is a public health **program** designed to screen infants shortly after birth for conditions that are treatable, but not clinically evident in the **newborn** period.